

REMARKS**Summary of the Office Action**

Claims 13-23 stand rejected under the doctrine of non-statutory double patenting based on particular claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,215,952.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants submit a Terminal Disclaimer and Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) concurrently herewith. Claims 13-23 remain pending for consideration.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 13-23 stand rejected under the doctrine of non-statutory double patenting based on particular claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,215,952. While Applicants traverse the rejections, Applicants submit a Terminal Disclaimer and Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) concurrently herewith to facilitate allowance of the present application, thereby obviating the double patenting rejections. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the double patenting rejections be withdrawn.

Request for Examiner-Initialed PTO Form 1449's

Applicants note that the Examiner has not yet returned initialed copies of the PTO Form 1449's associated with the Information Disclosure Statements filed in this application on April 2, 2004 and April 26, 2004. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner attend to this issue in the next Office Communication.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request reconsideration and timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution. A favorable action is awaited.

EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0573. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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